(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested for the reimbursement of the Central Government's share of the cost of Mumbai-Pune Expressway since it is a part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) by when Government would make payment as reimbursement to the Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Prior concurrence of Central Government was not obtained for this project for the payment of Grant.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of tamper proof number plates

3146. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce tamper proof number plates for new vehicles as well as the existing ones;

(b) if so, whether the estimated cost to introduce the new tamper proof number plates has been assessed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) on what grounds the new system of number plates is being introduced?

THE MINISTFR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cost of High Security Registration Plates would be known only after the competitive process, through which the selection of the vendor/vendors is to be made by the States/Union Territories, is completed.

(d) The Technical Standing Committee on Central Motor Vehicles Rules had recommended the introduction of High Security Registration Plates having a number of security features which would make removal,

tampering or counterfeiting of such plates difficult, thereby enhancing the security of motor vehicles.

Introduction of new number plates

3147. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cost benefit analysis of introducing the new system of number plates has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many advanced countries such a new number plate system have not been introduced;

(d) what is the necessity to introduce the new number plates in the country; and

(e) whether any comprehensive study in the matter have been conducted and if not, whether Government propose to commission a study and put up the report before the Parliament before taking any further step?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The new system of High Security tamper proof number plates would provide increased security to motor vehicles from theft. As such no cost benefit analysis is possible.

(c) to (e) Introduction of High Security Registration Plates has been notified on the basis of the recommendation made by the Technical Standing Committee on Central Motor Vehicles Rules. These plates have a number of security features which would make removal, tampering or counterfeiting of such plates difficult, thereby enhancing the security of motor vehicles. Some, but not all of these features are also available in the number plates used in many advanced countries. The combination of security features prescribed in the High Security Registration Plates was recommended by the Central Motor Vehicles Rules—Technical Standing Committee and accepted by Government in view of our prevailing environment. There is no proposal to commission any further study.

Assistance to Chhattisgarh for roads

3148. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: